# COMPETING SUCCESSFULLY FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

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#### **Turning Challenges Into Achievements**

- Educational webinars.
- Regular alerts on federal competitive grant funding opportunities
- Consultation upon request to receive general grant information, as well as advice on specific grants that can meet local needs
- Review and comment on applications for competitiveness
- Review letters and provide contacts in congressional offices and federal agencies to garner support for applications
- Recommend methods to improve success rates



#### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- \$1.2 Trillion
- \$100 Billion+ in new grants across 9 federal agencies
- 90% of these investments will be delivered by non-federal partners
- 38% of funding contains provisions that allow for expanded federal cost sharing
  - particularly for rural and disadvantaged communities
- Five years of funding
- NOFOs throughout the year















#### **Keys To Success**

- Start EARLY
  - o Review Previous NOFO
- Tell <u>Your</u> Story
- Keep It Simple / Concise
- Validate with Data
- Keep Congress Informed
- Build Relationships
- Use Materials Available
- Be Persistent and Patient
- Follow-Up





## Getting to Yes: Applying for Federal Grants and Understanding Resources Available from the US EDA

Presentation to Electricities August 9, 2022



Getting America Back to Work!



#### **Getting Started**



What is the why?
Outputs are different than outcomes!



#### Top Hints for applying for Grant Funds

Don't be afraid to ask!

Federal grants are posted on Grants.gov

To apply, make sure your organization has a current SAM and UEI

Think about the mission of the organization you are applying to – how does the project you want to do help achieve their goals?

Grant makers are investors --- provide the story for why they should invest in your project/community



#### **Top Hints for Applying for Grant Funds**

Don't overlook possibility for "layering" funding to accomplish a larger project

Revitalization of Town

Water/Sewer to serve residential

Infrastructure to support business expansion

Renovate vacant downtown property for new business to open

Expansion of
Workforce Training
Center to be more
accessible and better
meet area workforce
needs

\*\*\*Use your CIP as opportunity to connect what needs to happen with why it needs to happen to fully understand options and connect with available resources

#### EDA provides three primary functions

**Competitive Grant Awards** 



**Regional Planning** 

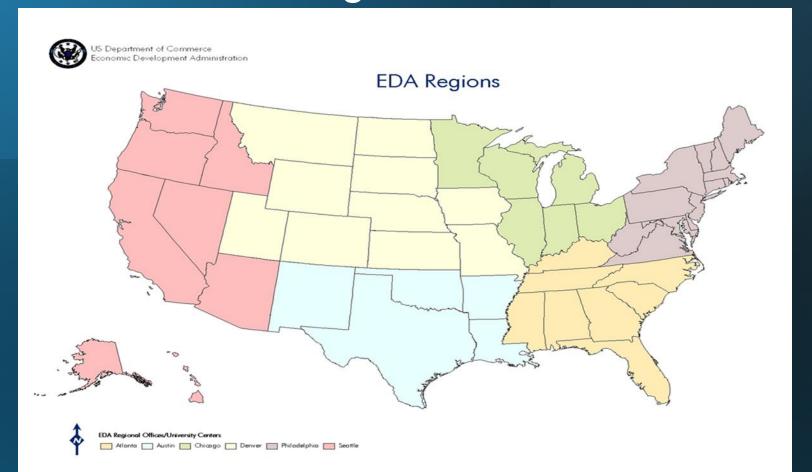


**Technical Assistance** 



What does EDA do?

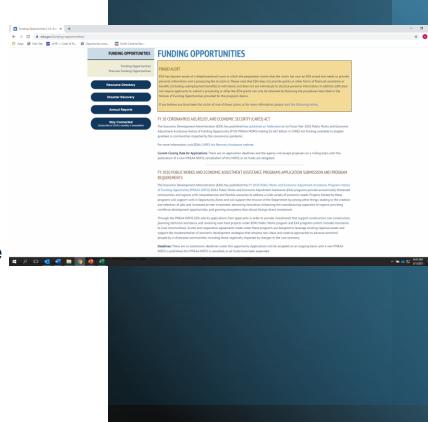
#### EDA Grantmaking – how does it work?



#### **EDA Grant Programs**

EDA has a range of grant programs, including:

- Public Works Program
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Program
- Planning Program
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
- University Centers
- Research and National Technical Assistance
- Local Technical Assistance Program
- Build to Scale
- CARES/ARPA\*



Construction	Non-Construction
Water and sewer system improvements, new lines or upgrades, pumps, towers, etc.	Economic diversification strategies
Industrial park infrastructure	Site-specific feasibility studies
Business incubators and accelerators	Resiliency or recovery strategies (general or sector specific)
High-tech shipping and logistics facilities	Highest and best use analysis
Workforce training centers	Capitalization or recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs)
Value-add agriculture processing	Supply chain analysis

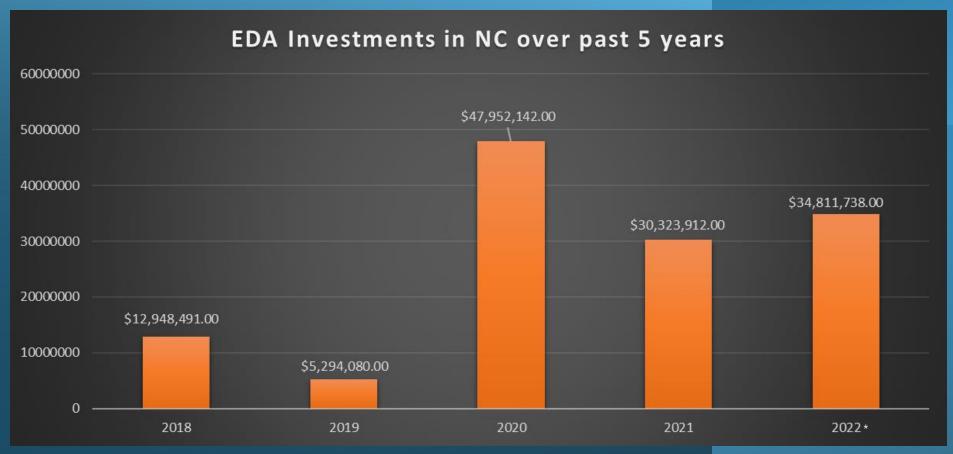
facilities

<sup>\*\*</sup>Not a complete list of eligible activities under each program!



### **Examples of recent Investments...**





\*Does not include any funds from Good Jobs Challenge or Build Back Better

### Key things to know to apply to EDA: Technical Requirements

- To apply you must be an Eligible Applicant.
- To apply you must **meet regional distress eligibility.**
- To apply you must **meet Matching Share** requirements.
- To apply you must **submit online via Grants.gov** and have a full application package.
- Construction applications require a Preliminary Engineering Report and an Environmental Narrative and Applicant Certification Clause to be complete

#### But what makes an application competitive?



1

Clearly defined economic development need



Project meets technical requirements and is within acceptable funding range outlined in applicable NOFO (match available, clean audit, adhere to 2 CFR 200)



The project aligns with at least one Investment

Priority (including: Equity; Recovery/Resilience;

Workforce Development; Manufacturing;

Technology-Based Economic Development;

Environmentally-Sustainable Development; Exports

& FDI) and/or aligns with funding priorities (coal impacts, nuclear communities)

4

Aligns with the regional CEDS and is supported by local and regional partners

The project represents a public project (not for individual or business) and is on public owned property if construction



Project will support job creation, job retention, and/or private investment in the community

For non-construction, project has clearly defined audience and summary of what they will do with information (i.e. not be a report to sit on a shelf)





## CHIPS and Science Act of 2022:

Keep your eyes out for more details!



#### **Contact Me!**

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